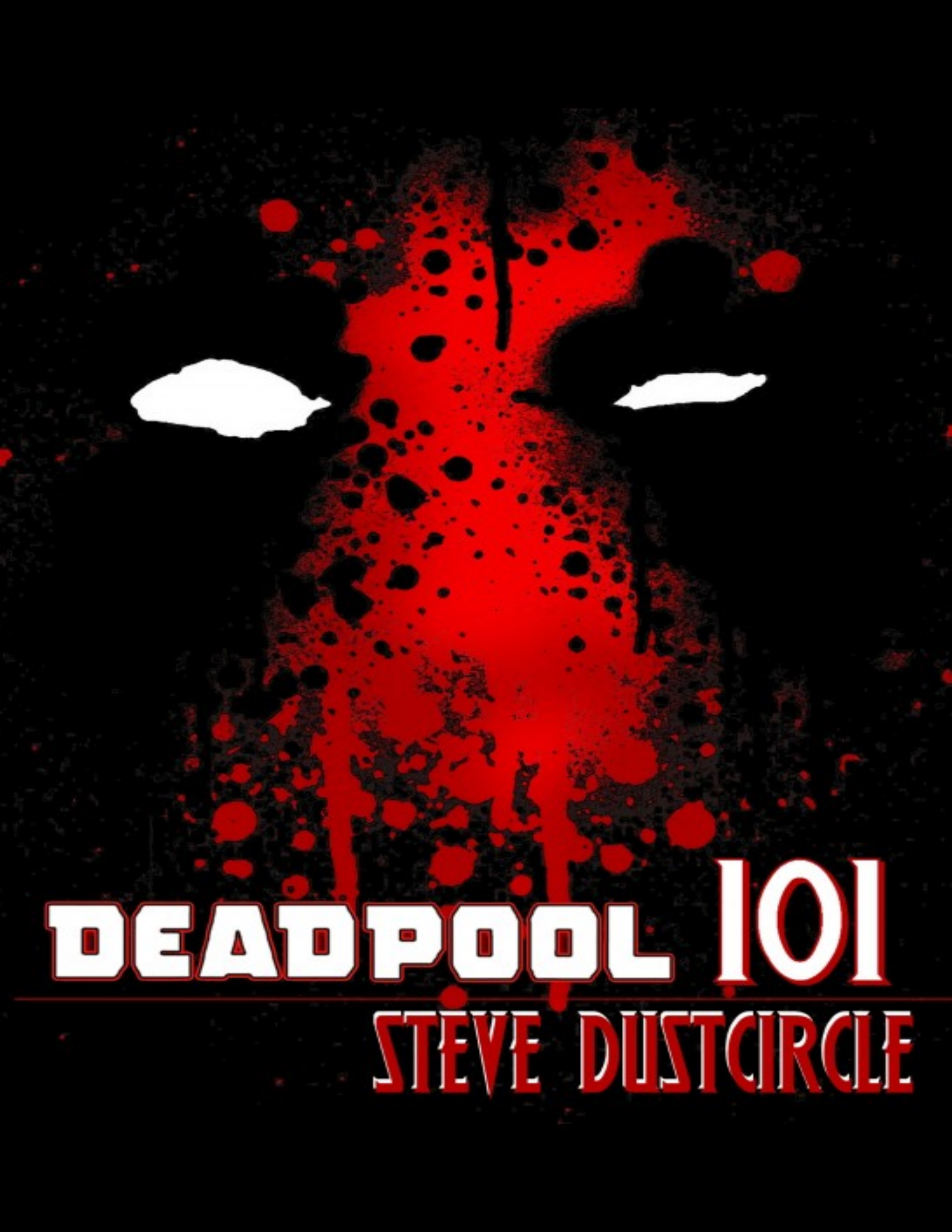
DEADPOOL 101
STEVE DUSTCIRCLE

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OceanofPDF.com

DEADPOOL 101

by Steve Dustcircle

Smashwords Edition

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About the Author

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A man in a blue outfit stands in the now stillness. Something piques his attention toward the external wall. He senses it, with his eye. The noise in his head rises.

The wall explodes, sending books and shelves outward from the location, like a suicide bomber's self-explosion.

As the remnants of various items fell to the floor, wood creaking from its buckling, and the lights above swinging side to side in a shaken fashion—casting dancing shadows across the debris—the dust in the library starts to settle. Beautiful volumes of books scattered about, the shelving tipped away from his location.

Nathan situates himself up on the floor, attempting to stand. Shaken, confused, and unsure if he was even still alive, he looks up toward the sounds of one's footsteps over him.

An imposing man stands above, pointing accusingly, dressed in a maroon and black outfit, face covered.

"*You're Nathan, right?"*

He is a known man, but he is unsure who this guy is. Nathan's silence gives his identity away.

"*Pleased to meet you." After a second passed for Nathan to either confirm or deny that he was the man sought after, the menacing figure continued, "Mr. Tolliver hired me to find you."*

Trying to hide the quiver in his voice, Nathan confirmed, "And you have."

The man in scarlet and black concluded, "Yup, well, Mr. Tolliver also hired me to kill you. ***I'm Deadpool****."*

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INTRODUCTION

As Winter peaked in 1991, comic books were usually $1.00 each.

It's an easy amount to ask your mom for, or an easy amount to grab out of your dad's change jar.

There was no tax on periodicals, so kids always knew that they had enough money, without having to figure out additional percentages.

In February of 1991, something new happened in the Marvel Comics Group world.

In *The New Mutants #98*, a new vigilante made his first appearance, and this super-villain turned anti-hero was called...

DEADPOOL.

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THE FORMATION

Deadpool is the creation of writer Fabian Nicieza (*X-Men*, *X-Force*, *New Warriors*, and *Thunderbolts*) and artist/writer Rob Liefeld (*The New Mutants*, *X-Force*, and *Youngblood*), both of Marvel Comics.

Fabian Nicieza was born in Argentina, moved to America at four years old, and learned to read and write from comic books.

Nicieza graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in advertising and public relations. He joined Marvel Comics in 1985. His brother, Mariano, is also a comic book writer and editor.

Rob Liefeld is a self-taught artist who grew up in Anaheim, California, and is a co-founder of Image Comics, after he had left Marvel.

Two of his major influences are Frank Miller (*Ronin*, *Daredevil: Born Again*, *The Dark Knight Returns*, *Sin City*, *300*) and George Pérez (*The Avengers*, *Teen Titans*).

His first published work with Marvel Comics was in 1988, with his *Hawk and Dove* mini-series.

Nicieza and Liefeld created the character, noting that he was quite similar to the *Teen Titans*' Deathstroke, whose real fictional name is Slade Wilson.

The comparison went a step further, with Deadpool's character's name becoming Wade Wilson.

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WHO IS DEADPOOL?

Deadpool's real name in the comic book world is Wade Winston Wilson, and is considered an antihero—not unlike Batman, Daredevil, Wolverine, or the Punisher.

Deadpool is a mentally-unstable man who is facially disfigured, and for this reason he usually wears a mask, though it also doubles as a protector against others figuring out his identity.

He is also called, “Merc *(mercenary)* with a Mouth,” because he is quite talkative, with long streams of dialog, rambling, and vocal thoughts.

He is one of only a couple of comic book characters that will humorously narrate his thoughts or deeds to the comic reader.

This is technically called, *breaking the fourth wall*. And the character in the comics seems to know that he's a fictional character.

As with all superheroes, Deadpool has a super power: self-healing, similar to that of the X-Men's Wolverine character.

This was the result of the Weapon X program, and it prevents him from dying, though it is assumed that he feels the initial pains and aches of initial contact with fists, knives, bullets and the like.

These neurons constantly rejuvenating and replenishing within his brain also makes it hard for psychic and telepathic invasions to be deterred or confused.

This ability also makes toxins and drugs difficult to have an effect on him.

Because of this accelerated healing process, permanent injury is deterred, but this power that he has in his neurons causes psychosis and unstable mental health.

While psychosis can be considered a handicap, it benefits him also by giving him the ability to foreshadow the moves of his opponent—he knows the attack that is coming before it happens.

The character Taskmaster even had a hard time fighting Deadpool in *Cable & Deadpool #38* because of Deadpool's erratic and unpredictable fighting patterns.

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HIS STORY

Deadpool's background is vague and ambiguous, though it's unsure if this is intentional.

Due to his mental condition, the character cannot remember his history, so this plays out as we try to put together his history.

Expectantly, there are a few background stories in the comic book runs.

The character T-Ray claims in *Deadpool #33* that he is the real Wade Wilson and that Deadpool is a vicious murderer who stole his identity.

Three issues later in *Deadpool #36*, the villain Loki claims to be Deadpool's father. Even Deadpool himself jokes to the reader that he is only named Wade Wilson at the whim of whatever writer or reader desires.

He seems to vaguely remember an upbringing in Ohio, but Deadpool is unsure of the validity of it.

Before the Weapon X scenario, he found himself working for the Yakuza in Japan, but he returned to America after falling in love with a boss' daughter.

A random couple found the mercenary in the woods wounded, and they take him in. As the mercenary heals, he becomes intrigued by the man's wife.

Envious, he burns the house down and kills the husband. In the process, he accidentally kills the wife.

He takes the name Wade Wilson in this story, assuming the wife's husband's name, but continues his life as a merc.

In the 2011-2012 series, a flashback reveals partially that Deadpool is the son of a decorated war hero, and is from Canada.

However, this conflicts with the original back story that he was kicked out of the U.S. Army Special Forces after being a part of the aforementioned program, Weapon X.

As a mercenary—that is, one who fights for his or her own interest and not that of a country or ideology—Deadpool is a rogue loner, and is a skilled assassin.

He is skilled in multiple traditions of the martial arts, and has a United States Army background. Within a magic satchel, he carries around what seems to be countless weapons and ammunition.

Deadpool is multilingual and speaks English, German, Japanese and Spanish.

He conceals or alters his presence by using a holographic disguise, and also deals with his opponents by supposedly being able to read the issues of other characters' comic books.

He can also teleport.

In 2008, Deadpool made the “Top 200 Comic Book Characters of All Time” list by *Wizard Magazine*, placing 182nd.

Empire Magazine places Deadpool at 45th place in “The 50 Greatest Comic Book Characters” list, and he ranks 31st on IGN's “Top 100 Comic Book Heroes.”

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IMPRESSIONS

Deadpool made his debut in *The New Mutants #98* (Feb. 1991), being a hired assassin to attack Cable and the New Mutants.

His second appearance was in *X-Factor*, and he then guest appeared in various titles such as *The Avengers*, *Daredevil*, and *Heroes for Hire*, until he got his own mini-series, *The Circle Chase*, in 1993.

It was then that he became somewhat of a hit, and started developing his own cult following.

Four years later, he got his own ongoing title, becoming an exaggerated anti-hero, which almost poked fun at similar superhero/vigilante comics that were coming out at the time.

It was in his solo series that many traits and trademarks would appear and become developed.

A comic book main character going unpunished for crimes was seen as a moral issue with many. But he gained popularity nevertheless.

Deadpool joined several different versions of himself in the 12-issue *Deadpool Corps*, including the series prequel, *Prelude to Deadpool Corps*: Lady Deadpool, Deadpool, Kidpool, Dogpool, and The Champion a.k.a. Championpool.

Deadpool has only died once so far—besides when he was a zombie in the *Marvel Zombies* comics—and that was in Deadpool #45, Deadpool's official 250th appearance, released in 2015 with several cover variants.

At the time of this writing, Deadpool has appeared in over 1700 titles.

So, if you're a collector of Deadpool appearances, it won't be a cheap collection.

He might not be the most famous character in comic books, but he does get around and has his cult following.

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SCREEN TIME

Deadpool has been featured on TV and in the theater several times, mostly as animated cameos.

His character was featured in the *X-Men* 1990 animated series, 2011's *Marvel Anime: X-Men*, the *Ultimate Spider-Man* series in 2012, and in *Marvel Disk Wars: The Avengers* in 2014.

The 2008 animated film, *Hulk vs. Wolverine*, features Deadpool with reference of the Weapon X program.

Ryan Reynolds played the character, Deadpool, in the 2009 feature film, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, which starred the staple lead X-Men star, Hugh Jackman.

Reynolds is returning to the character role in a Deadpool film in 2016. Deadpool is rumored to be breaking the forth wall in this film just as he is known to do in the comics.

While Deadpool is only featured occasionally in X-Men comics, the 2016 film is said to be considered part of the *X-Men* movie franchise.

> **The Deadpool character has also appeared in several Xbox and Playstation video games: *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *X-Men Legends II*, *Marvel: Ultimate Allegiance* and its sequel, *Spider-Man: Shattered Dimensions*, *Marvel vs. Capcom 3*, *Marvel Super Hero Quad Online*, *Marvel: Avengers Alliance*, *LittleBigPlanet*, *Marvel Heroes*, *Lego Marvel Superheroes*, *Marvel Pinball*, *Marvel Puzzle Quest*, *Marvel Conquest of Champions*, and of course his own featured game, *Deadpool*.**

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TIDBITS

There are several bits of trivia of Deadpool that the fan or newbie might want to know about him. Some are common knowledge and some are lost within the comic issues.

- He is a complete rip-off of DC comics' Deathstroke.
- He named himself.
- He was originally a villain.
- His background is complicated and a mystery.
- His dad, Thomas Wilson, suffers various deaths.
- He's a proud Canadian.
- He was briefly a member of X-Force.
- He once killed the entire Marvel Universe.
- He's beaten his enemies by just talking, driving them crazy.
- He fought and killed all of the dead presidents.
- He once fought and killed favorite literary characters.
- He breaks the forth wall often.
- He's very intelligent, is an organ donor, and is bisexual.
- He hates pickles and fears cows.
- He has a soft spot for animals and children.
- Before he was Deadpool, he was in love with a prostitute.
- He married Dracula's fiancée, one of several marriages.
- He has a daughter with Carmelita Camacho named Eleanor.
- He constantly tries to make Spider-Man his friend.
- He's friends with Captain America, his childhood hero.
- He has a sidekick named Weasel, an arms dealer.
- Deadpool compares himself to Ryan Reynolds in the comics: same height, weight, hair color, eye color, and sense of humor.
- Ryan Reynolds hated the *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* conclusion.
- He was never meant to be so popular.

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KEY ISSUES

If you're going to try to collect the 7000+ comics that Deadpool appears in, I wish you luck. But if you're looking for just key issues to get a general grasp onto Deadpool, the following titles are recommended:

Agent X #1, #3, #7, #13
Amazing Spider-Man #611
Avengers #366
Black Panther #23
Cable #3
Cable & Deadpool #1, #24, #38
Deadpool #0, #1, #4, #14, #27, #28, #33, #34, #57, #65
Deadpool (Vol. 2) #1, #19, #45
Deadpool (Vol. 3) #1, #27, Annual #1
Deadpool: The Circle Chase #1
Deadpool: Merc with a Mouth #7
Deadpool: Sins of the Past #1
Deadpool and Death: Annual 1998 (single issue)
Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe #1
Heroes for Hire #10, #11
New Mutants #98
New Warriors #53
Nomad #4, #15
Silver Sable #23, #30
Titan #155
Ultimate Spider-Man #91
Wolverine (Vol. 2) #88
Wolverine: Origins #21, #24
X-Force #1, #2, #4, #5, #10, #11, #14, #15, #19
X-Men Origins: Deadpool #1
X-Men Unlimited #28

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If you're interested in reading a complete series but keep it to a low issue count, the following are suggested:

Agent X (2002 series, 12 issues)
Cable & Deadpool (50 issues, 2004 series)
Deadpool (Volume 3, 45 issues, 2013 series)

Here are some important graphic novels or omnibus paperbacks that compile several comics into one volume, whether it's a 3-comic story or a complete comic book run.

Deadpool Classic, Volume 1 (264 pages, 2008)
Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe (2012)
Deadpool: Merc with a Mouth: Head Trip (328 pages, 2009)
Deadpool: Suicide Kings (152 pages, 2009)
Deadpool Volume 1: Secret Invasion (120 pages, 2008)
Deadpool vs. the Marvel Universe (96 pages, 2008)
Deadpool: Wade Wilson's War (104 pages, 2010)
Uncanny X-Force (2010 series)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Dustcircle is the author of several books: *Harley Quinn 101*, *Unchristianed Nation*, *Politics for the Disinterested*, *Transport*, *Napkins*, *Leaving Worship*, and has edited *Citing Atheists*, *The Frightful Fifty*, *The Quotable Dissenting Heretic*, *Mangasarian Volume One*, and *No, I Won't Buy Your eBook*, all of which were self-published.

Steve Dustcircle spent thirteen years in and out of the ministry, having left Christianity for secular humanism. Knowing what it's like to face challenges, pride, bigotry and guilt in the church, he is now unbound to tell his story, and help others leave the chains of religion. Originally from Chicago, he now resides in Columbus, OH with his frugal-blogger wife Cynthia, and they have a cat and turtle together.

Steve and his wife run **aLife Beyond Books**, a publishing house and editing service for authors who write about living life a little differently than the status quo.

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